

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
a compression processing section which compresses  
and encodes image data;

5 a storage section which stores the encoded data;  
a code separation section which separates and  
stores the data encoded by the compression processing  
section in separate regions of the storage section in  
accordance with a separation scheme set;

10 a key information preparation section which  
generates, as key information, information indicating a  
region in which each of the separated coded data is  
stored in the storage section and information  
indicating the separation scheme;

15 a code synthesis section which synthesizes the  
separated encoded data stored in the storage section,  
in accordance with the key information; and

an extension processing section which extends the  
encoded data synthesized by the code synthesis section.

20 2. The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to  
separate, the encoded data into direct-current and  
alternating-current components.

25 3. The image processing apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to  
separate, the encoded data into red, green, and blue  
components.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to separate, the encoded data is separated into cyan, magenta, yellow, and black components.

5           5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the set separation scheme is to separate, the encoded data into data blocks.

6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprising an interface section  
10 to be connected to an external device to communicate therewith, said external device having a storage section in which the encoded data separated by the code separation section is stored, and in which the coded data storage control section stores the separated  
15 encoded data in the storage section and in the storage section of the external device, and the key information preparation section generates the key information including information that indicates a storage region in which the separated coded data is stored in the  
20 external device.